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## THE CLUB CAMP IN RETROSPECT

A radio talk by Dr. C. B. Smith, Chief of Cooperative Extension Work, delivered through WRC and 42 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, June 23, 1931.

We have come to the end of our 4-H Club Camp in Washington. For a week now, 160 4-H club members and 90 club supervisors have been camping here together, on the beautiful grounds of the United States Department of Agriculture and under the shadow of the great Washington Monument. It has been an inspiring week to see these young people at work, counseling together in conference rooms, playing together on the lawns of the Department, worshipping together at vespers, and entertaining each other with fact and fancy, story and music, around a camp fire built on the grounds each night.

They came from 40 States and are representatives of 840,000 rural boys and girls and 60,000 men and women club leaders, who are cooperating with the agricultural extension services of the States and Territories, Alaska, Hawaii and Porto Rico, in teaching better agriculture and home making and a finer rural life.

They are a splendid group of rural youth, averaging about 18 years of age, clean, fresh, the hope of the nation. They are all dressed in uniform -- the girls in green, with white trimming, and the boys all in white. They make a striking appearance wherever they go. I wish you might have seen them. Your faith in the future would have been renewed.

They have been sent here by the States, two boys and two girls from each State, with their State leaders. The Department of Agriculture invited them to come and has been acting as host during the week. They come from the farms and small villages and will all return to their homes tomorrow.

In camp, boys from the South have been quartered with boys from the North; girls from Maine have been quartered with girls from Oklahoma. Splendid interstate and regional fellowship has developed among the members, and they all go away with prejudices forgotten, new, fine friendships made, and with a broadened vision of what this nation is and means.

During the week, they have been addressed by government officials and scientists. They have visited the public buildings, museums, libraries, and art galleries of the Capital. They have seen the original Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. They have seen Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis, in which he flew to Paris. They have laid a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They have stood in the National Cemetery at Arlington and seen with amazement, row on row, the great host of soldier dead there buried. They have visited Mount Vernon, the home of Washington, walked over its peaceful lawns and stood in silence before the Tomb of Washington. They have visited Robert E. Lee's old home among the hills of Virginia, looked down on the sleeping Potomac and from its portico across to the whole city of Washington, spread out before them there, with its great Memorial Bridge, the great marble pillared memorial to Lincoln, the towering Monument to Washington, the domed capital, the Congressional Library with its golden dome, and great public buildings of marble and granite scattered everywhere. There it all lay spread out before them -- their nation's

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Capital, one of the great cities of the earth, known and honored wherever civilization is, builded by their fathers, theirs to carry forward, theirs to defend forever.

Then, there was the reception at the White House by President and Mrs. Hoover, to the whole group, and Mrs. Hoover's gracious visit to the Club Camp itself. What memories these farm youths are taking back with them! What stimulation to nationalization, citizenship, may this week not have!

The camp is ended. Its tents are being dismantled, but we know something has been left in the hearts of this group of farm boys and girls that will carry on to the glory of the nation, clear to the end of the day.